

initial arguments before the Supreme Court; in July of 1987 the Supreme Court agreed to accept the case and appointed a Special Master. There have subsequently been motions by other groups to intervene in the suit and there was also a motion to expand that issue. Just last week, on the 4th of March, Nebraska's motion to expand the scope of the lawsuit was rejected by the Supreme Court. However, this doesn't really have any impact on the requested funding level because those were not written into the original funding assumptions anyway. It's anticipated that additional money will still be needed if the interveners are allowed into the case and so we're hoping for a negotiated settlement. And I have conversed with a few folks that I know in Wyoming and I know that Mike Jess and the Governor's office have been in contact with Wyoming and we are hoping for a negotiated settlement, but, in the meantime, this deficit that was requested was put together prior to any attempt to expand and so you don't really need to worry much about that. And the expansion would not have affected anything in terms of the short term deficit that's requested. So, with that brief description, unless you would like to walk through the issues related to the Deer Creek litigation, I would just make the point that this is an important issue for the future of Nebraska and the future of the flow of the Platte River and we would, obviously, rather not be in court at all, but to fail to pursue this aggressively means that we will either end up allowing Wyoming to determine our destiny in a Wyoming District Court or simply letting another state come into our state and have what I think would be a major devastating effect on the future of our water flow in the State of Nebraska. So I would urge you to adopt the committee amendments and we'll hope for a negotiated settlement soon on the Deer Creek issue. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Questions? Senator Schmit, would you care to discuss the committee amendment?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I appreciate very much Senator Scofield's thumbnail sketch of the Deer Creek situation. And I really do believe, Senator Scofield, that perhaps it would be time well spent for you and other committee members to give us additional information on this issue, because, as you have pointed out, the ramifications of the action out there are very, very far-reaching and will be with us for a long period of time. My original interest in this situation goes back at least several years when there were first indications out there that Wyoming was going to try to do